

REMARKS

Claims 14-26 are pending in the present application. No claims have been amended or canceled and no new claims have been added.

I. Specification Amendment

The Specification has been amended to correct a grammatical error. Specifically, page 4, line 5 of the specification the clause “of the other end” was amended to “the other end.”

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ariyoshi et al. (GB 2,347,263 A). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Ariyoshi teaches an optical disk drive including a drive power transfer path switching mechanism for switching the drive power transfer path of the second motor between a path transferring power to the loading drive mechanism and a path transferring power to the pickup drive mechanism (page 5 lines 22-25). Ariyoshi teaches a trigger lever (71) for switching the power transfer path (page 33, lines 19-25). The trigger level (71) cooperates with a number of mechanical components to switching the power transfer path (page 34, lines 1-21).

The present invention provides a first operation switching mechanism (for performing a first switching operation for switching transmission path of the driving force of said dual-purpose drive source mechanism from a path leading to said pickup drive mechanism to a path leading to said turntable raising/lowering mechanism, or vice versa), wherein the first operation switching mechanism performs the first switching operation by an operation independent of the optical pickup under the driving first of the dual-purpose drive source mechanism. This enables the present invention to perform the aforementioned first switching operation while narrowing the moving range of the optical pickup.

Compared with this, in Ariyoshi, the optical pickup 6 is fixed by a screw 49 for the feed rack 40 (See lines 17-22 on page 27 of the specification of Ariyoshi). That is, the optical pickup 6 and the feed rack 40 structurally move as a unit. For this reason, in order to perform a switching operation after moving the optical pickup 6 to the inside circumference edge, the feed rack 40 is required to move while moving the optical pickup 6 to a further inside circumference

position (See line 21 of page 41 to lines 12 of page 42, line 19 of page 45 to line 6 of page 46 of the specification of Ariyoshi).

As stated above, a significant difference as to whether an optical pickup should be moved when performing a switching operation is found between the present invention and Ariyoshi, and accordingly we are of the opinion that the elements of claims 14 and 15 are not disclosed in Ariyoshi.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 16-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

All matters having been addressed in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

Applicants' undersigned representative remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains an issue in which the Examiner feels would be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

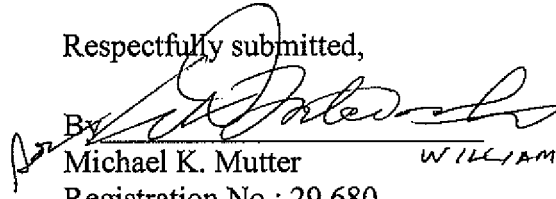
Application No. 10/528,996
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Docket No.: 2257-0251PUS1

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-2448. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any overpayments to the above-referenced deposit account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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